

## **FOREST WARDEN**

The Stow Fire Department responded to many brush fires and investigations of outdoor smoke calls in the year 2011.

The Town Forest and other conservation lands were patrolled regularly for down trees and limbs that block the fire roads. Brush cutting was also performed where required to keep the roads open for fire apparatus.

The open burning season was once again very busy for the Fire Department. 450 burning permits were issued from January 15 until April 30, 2011. Those who wish to burn brush must be sure to come to the Stow Fire Station to obtain a burning permit. For the day you wish to burn, you call the Fire Department before you begin burning (after 9:00am). The number to call is 897-4537. We allow burning between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm with permission from the Fire Department depending on staffing and weather conditions. This allows us to have the appropriate personnel available in case your fire gets out of control.

One goal for next year is to automate the process for residents. This will allow people to register online for a burning permit and to check daily to see if burning is allowed. Many burning days are declined by the Department of Environmental Protection due to atmosphere conditions. The State Forest Warden cancels burning due to unfavorable weather conditions. Extreme conditions are reported as “Red Flag Days” on local weather reports.

I would like to thank the State Forest Fire Division and the Sudbury Fire Tower for all their help in locating and extinguishing some of these fires.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael McLaughlin, Forest Warden

## **EMERGENCY PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT**

The Fire Department is the point of contact for the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). The LEPC is comprised of a number of many cross functional departments that have demonstrated the ability to professionally manage emergency incidents in Stow. We are extremely fortunate to have such a talented group of volunteers. They have handled everything from desktop exercises to real emergencies, such as opening and managing emergency shelters. In the beginning, the LEPC met monthly until we were operationally ready. The group now meets on a quarterly basis or sooner if an emergency arises. Our meetings take place at our primary shelter, which is the Hale School.

The Stow Emergency Management Team responded to several recent major weather related natural disasters. In 2009 we had the Ice Storm, 2010 the March spring floods and the countless winter snow storms in the winter of 2010/2011. This year we encountered tornados, Hurricane Irene and the October “Halloween Northeaster”. We work closely with the Highway, Fire and Police Departments to mitigate and manage the town’s recovery efforts. After large incidents, a representative from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was on site in Stow for several weeks. We collected and consolidated the necessary paperwork to apply for reimbursement of Stow’s expenses. We are in the process right now of recording and submitting the latest paperwork. This financial recovery effort has proved to be very successful in returning thousands of dollars for the Town’s out-of-pocket disaster expenditures back to the general fund for Police, Fire, and Highway.

The LEPC recently received approval from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), FEMA and MEMA Region I for Stow’s Hazard Mitigation Plan. This dynamic plan will be reviewed, revised as appropriate, and resubmitted every five years. This formal approval provides us with the authorization to apply for Federal and State Grants.

I would like to thank all the LEPC members and town departments for their time and professionalism. I want to thank the Nashoba Regional School District for their support and Bill Spratt, who recently left the district to join the staff at WPI. Bill was a tremendous help and colleague helping us mitigate through all of the storms over the last several years.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael McLaughlin, Emergency Management Director

#### **Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)**

1	Baranofsky, Ann-Marie	Nashoba Regional School District
2	Blake, Vicki	Plantation Apartments
3	Brownfield, Sharon	Medical Reserve Corp (MRC)
4	Chief Bill Bosworth	Acting Stow Police Chief
5	Clayton, Michael	Stow Highway Superintendent
6	Cullen, Linda	Town Nurse
7	Fantasia, John	Stow Communications Center
8	Funkhouser, Sharon	Stow Council on Aging
9	Glorioso, Robert	Ham Radio Operators
10	Hathaway, Linda	Stow Town Clerk
11	Heffernan, Al	Meeting House
12	Holbrook, Jack	Arber Glen
13	Kern, Charlie	Stow Board of Selectmen
14	King, George	Nashoba Regional School District
15	Martin, Craig	Building Inspector

### **Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)**

16	McLaughlin, Mike	Stow Fire Chief
17	McLaughlin, Susan	Office of the Board of Selectmen
18	Norton, Bob	Stow Wiring Inspector
19	Perry, Patricia	Stow Conservation Committee
20	Perry, Ross	Medical Reserve Corp (MRC)
21	Rising, Marcia	Board of Health/MRC
22	Robart, Sarah	Medical Reserve Corp (MRC)
23	Ryan, Tom	Board of Selectmen
24	Spratt, Bill	Nashoba Regional School District
25	Stadolnik, Rebecca	Medical Reserve Corp (MRC)
26	Tobey, Elizabeth	Stow Information Technology
27	Toole, Alyson	Stow Council on Aging
28	Trahman, Patricia	Nashoba Regional School District
29	Trefry, Bruce	Emerson Hospital
30	Wallace, Jack	Stow Board of Health
31	Wrigley, William	Stow Town Administrator